

USSN 10/626,033  
Page 5

REMARKS

With entry of the instant amendment claims 59 - 83 are pending in the application. Original claims 1 - 58 have been canceled. New matter has not been introduced by the amendment. Applicants reserve the right to file further continuation applications on the subject matter of any canceled claim.

New claims 59 and 73 are independent claims. These claims are directed to a process for the non-fermentative production of 2-keto-D-gluconate (KDG) comprising, a) obtaining cells from an *Enterobacteriaceae* strain wherein the cells comprise a mutation in a nucleic acid encoding an endogenous KDG dehydrogenase, said mutation resulting in the inactivation of the endogenous KDG dehydrogenase, b) providing a bioreactor with the cells, glucose, and glucose dehydrogenase (GDH), and c) allowing enzymatic oxidation of the glucose by the GDH to yield gluconate and enzymatic oxidation of the gluconate to yield KDG. Claim 59 further comprises obtaining cells of an *Enterobacteriaceae* strain comprising a mutation in an endogenous membrane bound glucose dehydrogenase (GHD). Support for these claims is found *inter alia* in original claims 1, 4, 5, 10, and 11 and in examples 1 - 4 of the disclosure.

New claims 60 - 72 depend from claim 59 and new claims 74 - 83 depend from claim 73. Support for claims 60 - 63, 74 and 75 may be found at page 8, lines 14 - 23 and at page 17, lines 24 - 29 of the disclosure. Support for claims 63 and 76 may be found at page 8, lines 28 - 30. Claims 64, 65, 77 and 78 find support in original claims 6 and 7. Claims 66 and 79 find support in original claim 57. Claims 67 and 80 find support in original claim 2. Claim 68 finds support in original claim 9. Claim 69 finds support in original claim 43. Claim 70 finds support at page 4, lines 25 - 27 of the disclosure. Claims 71 and 82 directed to a batch process find support in original claims 48 and claims 72 and 83 directed to a continuous process find support in original claim 47.

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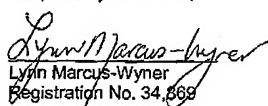
NO. 133 D007

\* USSN 10/626,033  
Page 6

Applicants believe all pending claims are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at (650) 846-7620.

Respectfully submitted,

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PAGE 7/7 \* RCVD AT 1/12/2004 2:50:44 PM [Eastern Standard Time] \* SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-1/5 \* DNIS:8729306 \* CSID:650 845 6504 \* DURATION (mm:ss):01:34